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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 41, 1949.

At a recent meeting of the Board of the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR, Otarov, Minister of Public Health for Kabardin ASSR, painted a glowing picture of the control of various diseases in his area. However, he failed to give an objective evaluation of the actual conditions and did not reveal many of his administrative's faults.

Many hospitals and polyclinics are still independent and no effort has been made to unite them. Thus, seven hospitals and more than half of the existing polyclinics are working independently and cannot afford the service that can be extended to the public under a united system. In some of the hospitals the authorities are inefficient and are impractical.

At the Nal'chik Municipal Hospital acute pneumonia cases are hospitalized for only 4 or 5 days. There are many cases of erroneous diagnosis. There is no plan for organization of the rural medical aid network. Of the 15 rayons, only five have had their hospitals reorganized. Ten of the rayons have no doctors, 12 have no obstetrician or gynecologist, and five have no pediatrician. The republic is also suffering from an acute shortage of qualified doctors. Today, there is only one qualified doctor for every 1,000 people. The situation is not improving, and very poor use is being made of the many qualified medical personnel, other than doctors, who are in the republic. In the last 8 months only 35 new doctors were assigned to Kabardin hospitals. Five have left due to lack of proper living conditions, lack of equipment, and possibly due to bad ideological training. The Ministry is not paying enough attention to the needs and operation of the rayon public health organizations. This condition is not surprising in view of the fact that many of the most important positions in the Ministry remain vacant.

The Board admitted that Otarov was a hard worker but was diffident in his administration. He was urged to complete plans for improving the therapeutic and prophylactic network under his jurisdiction, and that all the medical workers in Karabdin ASSR exert every effort to bring about similar conditions which was so glowingly described in the public health minister's report.

- 1 -

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Various reports were submitted on the quality of Soviet medical preparations. M. P. Volokh, acting chief of the Division for the Control of Quality of Glavmedprom Products, and M. G. Zaslavskaya, chief engineer for inspection at the Ministry, reported that today various medical industry plants are producing twice as much as they produced in 1946. During 1948 and 1949, Glavmedprom introduced all manner of improvements for the purpose of increasing the production and quality of medical preparations. As a result, almost all complaints against Khimfarmprom (Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries) products have been eliminated. Nevertheless, the large number of complaints which are still received expresses a general dissatisfaction with the operations of many factories and apothecary stores. Most of these complaints refer to the poor-quality laboratory and sanitation equipment, syringes, all types of laboratory glassware, pharmaceutical preparations, ampoules, etc.

Many theories were expressed regarding the very poor quality of laboratory glass products. It was suggested that the poor quality of Klin and Solnechnogorskiy glass products was due to the lack of proper laboratory control of the production processes. There are many bottlenecks and much inefficiency at the Chemicopharmaceutical Factory imeni Karpova, the Chemicopharmaceutical Factory in Tyumen, and factories in Sverdlovsk, Zhdanov, Doshastinskiy, and Leningrad.

The Board of the Ministry of Public Health USSR criticised the inefficiency of the Technical Council of the Ministry for failing to maintain rigid standards for quality of products. The shipping network has not been functioning as efficiently as it should. Consequently, shipments of medicinal preparations are not only delayed but also frequently arrive damaged.

It was decided that a commission should be appointed to examine goods at the factory, so as to minimize the tendency to produce low-quality goods and prevent waste of valuable shipping space. Glavmedprom was charged with the duty of giving wider dissemination to information on new medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations.

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- 2 -

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